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NSC BRIEFING

27 May 1959

SICILY

I. Factionalism in Italy's Christian Democratic party may give effective control over Sicilian regional assembly to Communists and Nenni Socialists in elections 7 June.

A. Ninety-member assembly now run by a coalition of dissident Christian Democrats (18 seats), Nenni Socialists (10 seats), and monarchists and neo-fascists (13 seats), with support of Communists (18 seats). (Others are: loyal CD, 19; miscellaneous, 12.)

1. Assembly president is dissident CD Silvio Milazzo, who hopes to set up his Sicilian Christian Social Union as a rival Catholic party to CD.
2. He is supported by CD ex-premier Mario Scelba, whose objective is blocking return to power of ex-CD party secretary Amintore Fanfani.

II. As result of this maneuvering, Communists and Nenni Socialists likely to win six of loyal CD's seats. (~~Under electoral law~~ popularity of present coalition will tend to draw votes from loyal CD's.)

A. This will give ~~them~~ 34 seats. With rightists' 13 thrown in, they can control assembly without dissident CDs.

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